

U.S. IMPERIALIST'S "Burn All, Destroy All, Kill All"

POLICY IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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INTRODUCTION

DURING World War II, the Hitlerite fascists resorted to many dastardly and odious repressive methods against the peoples of European countries under their occupation.

How can progressive mankind forget such gruesome massacres as those of Oradour and Lidice?

Today, in their aggression against Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists' crimes by far surpass in gravity the Hitlerite fascists!

By carrying out the "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy, the U.S. aggressors, their satellites and agents have perpetrated hundreds of Oradours and Lidices in South Vietnam the area and the population of which are smaller than those of France and Czechoslovakia. The U.S. "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy in South Vietnam is one of the most typical features of its war of aggression in Vietnam and at the same time a most hideous aspect of the war of aggression in history. Most of the one-odd million South Vietnamese killed or wounded were its victims. From the 17th parallel to Ca Mau Cape, thousands of hamlets and villages have been destroyed, burnt down or razed to the ground.

In the present situation, no complete statistics can be obtained yet. This document can only deal with a very small part of the untold crimes perpetrated by the United States in pursuance of its most inhuman policy.

PART I

MASS MASSACRES UNDER THE U.S.—DIEM ADMINISTRATION

RIIGHT after the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, in an attempt to turn South Vietnam into a U.S. new-type colony and military base, the Ngo Dinh Diem puppet clique, on the U.S. imperialists' orders, carried out an intimidating terror with most savage repressive measures.

The stifling atmosphere of terror prevailed in the countryside and cities. Arrests, detention, tortures, murders were daily occurrences; the victims were all persons suspected to be patriots, advocating strict implementation of the Geneva Agreements, peace and unity of the Fatherland or opposing the cruel puppet Ngo Dinh Diem regime. On December 1, 1958, 6,000 patriots detained in Phu Loi concentration camp (Thu Dau Mot province) were secretly poisoned; and over 1,000 met a tragic instant death.

Another savage massacre of patriots took place in Kien Phong provincial town. On June 20, 1960 at midnight, 52 patriots from Cao Lanh prison were tied and taken aboard a ship on the Mekong River. Everyone of them was beheaded, had their throats cut, and disembowelled. The heart-rending and indignant cries of the 52 victims were heard on the river. Their corpses were put in jute-bags, ballasted with stones and thrown into the river.

What is more brutal and brazen-faced, in broad daylight the Diem agents massacred people in many terrorist raids.

On January 21, 1955, U.S.—Diem troops broke into Vinh Trinh village, Duy Xuyen district, Quang Nam province. With swords and rifle butts, they beat up and took away peasants working in the field. 47 peasants were tragically killed. After tying their arms and legs with wire, U.S.—Diem troops used daggers to cut off their ears, gouge out their eyes, stick their throats and disembowel them. In order to silence the last screams, the executioners poured petrol on the bloody bodies and set fire to them. Then the remainings of the 47 corpses were thrown down Vinh Trinh dam.

The persons killed are patriots who had taken part in the war of resistance against the French colonialist aggressors, and have earnest aspirations for peace, democracy, improvement of the people's living standard and unity of the country.

In some places, the population of whole hamlets, irrespective of age and sex were killed. On July 9, 1955, U.S.—Diem troops surrounded Tan Lap and Tan Hiep hamlets (Quang Tri province). After firing a shower of intimidating shots, they herded the people in stretches of waste ground. As the impounded persons were recovering from their astonishment, they beat them limp and then cut their throats, or beheaded them. 92 people were slaughtered, among whom were 23 children under 18 (including 8 babies).

Under the U.S.—Diem rule, a great number of similar massacres took place throughout South Vietnam. The above are only some typical ones.

PART II

U.S. AGGRESSORS AND SATELLITES' "BURN ALL, DESTROY ALL, KILL ALL" POLICY

THE more frenzied U.S. repression, the more determined the South Vietnamese people's resistance. Thousands of U.S. advisers (1) and over half a million puppet troops armed to the teeth, and all the organizations of the puppet administration have been unable to intimidate the patriotic people of South Vietnam.

The United States cannot turn South Vietnam into a U.S. dominion, although Ngo Dinh Diem declared that U.S. frontier extended to the 17th parallel in Vietnam; the puppet troops have been sustaining increasingly heavy defeats, their morale cracking; the weakened puppet administration was impotent.

In order to save the puppet troops and intensify their aggression, the U.S. imperialists have since 1965 been introducing en masse into South Vietnam hundreds of thousands of U.S. and satellite troops, and many types of modern weapons and means of warfare to pursue a war against the people of South Vietnam.

The "*burn all, destroy all, kill all*" policy is an integral part of the U.S. imperialists' schemes of aggression. These are most savage methods and forms of war of aggression. In South Vietnam, as they step up the war, they concurrently intensify the "*burn all, destroy all, kill all*" policy to a more atrocious degree. Along with the massive introduction of U.S. troops and weapons into South Vietnam, there is a large increase in casualties and the number of villages and hamlets burnt or destroyed.

To expand the areas under their occupation in conformity with the so-called "*ink-spot*" plan, they carried out the "*three all*" policy in a premeditated and most savage manner in the "*pacification*" operations and continual bombings (2).

(1) By mid-1959, the United States had brought into South Vietnam over 2,000 U.S. advisers and military personnel, i.e. tenfold as compared with the figure at the time of the ceasefire in July 1954. Among them were 280 high-ranking officers. In December 1963, the United States brought in 16,500 U.S. troops.

(According to The New York Herald Tribune, Oct. 17, 1966).

(2) On January 17, 1966, there were 404 sorties (UPI Jan. 18, 1966); on March 10, 1966, 648 sorties; on April 2, 1966, 524 sorties (AFP, Mar. 11, 1966 and Apr. 2, 1966).

1—EXTENSIVE USE OF BOMBS AND ROCKETS

OVER the past ten years, the U.S. aggressors have been bombing and strafing the fertile and populous land of South Vietnam on a round-the-clock basis.

According to the October 10, 1966 issue of *The New York Herald Tribune*, the quantity of bombs dropped on Vietnam in 1965 amounted to 480,000 tons. In April 1966, McNamara, U.S. Defense Secretary, reported to the U.S. Congress that the quantity of bombs dropped on Vietnam that year would run to 638,000 tons, greater than the total released on the whole Pacific area in World War II, or greater than the amount of U.S. bombs used in three years of the Korean War (1).

According to the January 2, 1967 issue of the *U.S. News and World Report*, in 1966, the United States fired 500,000 tons of shells. The quantity of shells used in Vietnam exceeded that used in World War II.

The quantity of shells and bombs used in Vietnam is enough to show the atrocious nature of the war and the U.S. aggressors' deliberate scheme to massacre the people. Moreover, the vicious aggressors not only hit at those who take up arms to oppose their piratical war, but their attacks are mainly directed against densely populated areas.

In a single day—February 6, 1964—U.S. aircraft bombed on 30 times the Ben Cau area, in Tay Ninh province. Explosive, napalm and steel-pellet bombs and rockets were rained on this area. Over 1,000 dwelling houses were set ablaze like a flaming forest. Over 100 people, mostly old folks, women and children were beheaded, disembowelled, crushed or burnt to death.

On October 14, 15 and 16, 1965, U.S. aircraft repeatedly dropped all types of bombs on Do Lang, Do Dep, Do Mo, Do O, Do Kiang, Do Lok villages, Gia Lai province (on the Western High Plateaux). For three consecutive days, the forest was ablaze. Hundreds of civilians were wounded or killed. All houses and crops were destroyed. A lush area of hundreds of square kilometres was devastated.

Not only people working on the fields were massacred but children busy studying at school were also deliberately killed by the U.S. aggressors. U.S. aircraft bombed Linh Phung school (Ben Tre province) on July 8, 1964 and Man Quang school (Quang Nam province) on June 13, 1965 while pupils were diligently attending class. These schools were destroyed and set ablaze. Nearly 100 young Vietnamese were killed or paralysed for life. A boy was turned by napalm into a living torch and died before he reached his home. Another had his face burnt raw and could not open his swollen eyes. Before he died, he asked his mother: "Mamma, open my eyes so that I can see you for the last time".

Travelling in the areas controlled by the puppet administration is most dangerous. On January 8, 1966 at 08.00 hours, with the permission of the puppet police, the *Thuan Phong* boat with 250 passengers aboard left Thu Dau Mot city for Dau Tieng district town. At 10.00 hours, when the boat passed by the former market of An Tay village, two helicopters *HU-1A* skimmed over

(1) In World War II, U.S. planes dropped on the Pacific area 502,781 tons of bombs and in the Korean War (from 1950—1953), 408,360 tons. (According to The New York Herald Tribune, Oct. 10, 1966).

the boat deck, turned round then fired rockets on the craft, amidst the screams of passengers, particularly of women and children. The boat sunk and the wounded like the killed went to the bottom of the river. Those who had jumped off the boat were killed by U.S. rockets and bullets while they were afloat. As a result, over 200 people were killed. According to Mrs. Doan Thi Xua, one of the survivors, some mothers were killed before the boat sunk with their babies in their arms. Some babies were cut into halves by rockets, in their mothers' arms.

Above are only some of the numerous crimes of this kind perpetrated by the U.S. aggressors.

2 — HIDEOUS ROLE OF THE U.S. AGGRESSORS AND THEIR SATELLITES IN THE BLOODY TERRORIST RAIDS

In their terrorist raids, U.S. and satellite troops have been resorting to weapons such as poison and toxic gas in massacres of indescribable cruelty.

On January 25, 1965, that is a week before the Lunar New Year's Day, the Vietnamese people, according to an old tradition, were preparing to welcome the New Year, U.S. and puppet troops launched a big terrorist operation against Phu Lao hamlet, in Phu Yen province. Besides air bombings and naval shellings which resulted in heavy losses in life and property, infantry troops, wherever they went, massacred people and set fire to houses. After bombing and strafing, U.S. aircraft by turns sprayed toxic gas on villages.

As a result of this terrorist raid, over 100 persons were killed and over 100 others wounded. Some families were wiped out, such as Mr. Nguyen Van Ba's family comprising 12 persons including his children and grandchildren. Pregnant women were slashed by bomb splinters and their unborn babies ejected from their wombs. 80 persons, mostly children, women and old folks were killed by toxic gas.

Also in Phu Yen, in the so-called "dry-season counter-offensive" from January 1, 1966 to April 10, 1966, the U.S. aggressors repeatedly carried out large-scale and long-term terrorist raids in the whole province. They used tens of thousands of infantry troops comprising U.S., South Vietnamese puppet troops, Pak Jung Hi and Australian mercenaries, supported by 90 helicopters, 20 bombers, 2 columns of M. 113 and M. 118 armoured cars, and guns from U.S. warships.

Tuy Hoa I District, comprising 12 villages with a population of over 70,000 had been encircled by infantry troops since the first days of this bloody campaign; it had been subjected to repeated raids. In many consecutive days, powdered gasoline and napalm bombs were dropped by aircraft and turned wide areas around the mountains into forests of flames. In some villages, such as Hoa Hiep, Hoa Thinh, Hoa My, Hoa Phong, deafening explosions of all types of bombs and shells were heard without let up. Everywhere, houses were burnt down, people killed. Mr. Binh of Hoa Hiep village was the only survivor of his 9-person family.

Following the air raids, infantry troops entered villages, some groups held captive. These murderers beat, pillaged, raped and killed people, burnt and destroyed their property.

In Hoa My village, U.S. troops had the inhabitants lined up and shot them; as a result, 47 persons, mostly old folks and children, were killed. Many women — including old ones — were raped. Tuyet, a 17-year-old girl was raped many times till she lost consciousness. All houses, property and food were destroyed or burnt.

In Hoa Biеп village, Pak Jung Hi mercenaries announced that they would not leave a human being alive, or a house standing. And their deeds matched with their words. They killed all old people and children. Mrs Nam, 60 years old, was raped to death on the spot. Mrs Hoa's son, 4 years old, was seized by the feet, torn into halves and thrown into the flames.

After this savage raid, every village in Tuy Hoa I district had hundreds of houses burnt down, scores of people killed. Hoa My, Hoa Thinh, Hoa Phong villages were razed to the ground and turned into a no-man's land. Over 500 people were savagely murdered. Over 53,000 persons were taken by helicopters to detention camps in Hoa Dong, Hoa Binh, Hoa Tan villages which had been occupied since the beginning of January 1966. Here they have been living in utter misery, and over 100 children — not to mention adults — have died of starvation and disease.

In Binh Dinh province, the U.S. aggressors and their satellites have caused atrocious sufferings. Very early on May 6, 1966, U.S. aircraft rained explosive, steel-pellet and napalm bombs on Thanh Son village (Binh Dinh province). Trees, houses, cattle and human beings were burnt down, crushed and buried. Then U.S. troops entered these villages, burnt, destroyed the remaining houses and killed more people. 300 corpses lay in many places, most of them dismembered. Over 500 people, including the wounded were forced into helicopters and flown into concentration camps dubbed "Relief camps for victims of communism". The old men, forced at gunpoint to board helicopters, reluctantly left their native villages which had been razed to the ground and where the corpses of their dear ones were still lying.

The Pak Jung Hi mercenaries have proved to be as savage as their U.S. masters in joint U.S. - Korean raids or in separate operations. As tools of the U.S. aggressors, they have on U.S. orders perpetrated untold crimes in South Vietnam.

On February 26, 1966, four Pak Jung Hi battalions carried out a terrorist raid in Binh An village (Binh Dinh). They most barbarously massacred the population there. Out of 286 persons killed, there were 137 women and 76 children. The soldiers snatched a baby from its mother's arms, smashed it against a tree till its skull was broken, then threw it into a burning house. They used swords to stab women, including pregnant ones. They herded old men into a house, locked it and set fire to it, threw toxic gas grenades into shelters to kill women and children.

The place was littered with dead bodies. Over 2,000 houses and all property, foods, farm tools were burnt to ashes.

These are only a few facts which depict the cruel and ruthless nature of the U.S. aggressors and their mercenaries. Since 1965, they carried out tens of thousands of bloody terrorist raids, perpetrating untold crimes. In Binh Dinh province alone, in the last six months of 1965, 20,000 U.S. troops and Pak Jung Hi mercenaries launched over 600 big and small "mopping-up" operations, supported by armoured cars, heavy guns, aircraft including B-52 strategic bombers, killing 2,900 persons, wounding

3,800 others, razing to the ground and burning down over 10,000 houses including 280 pagodas, Cao Dai temples and Catholic churches.

The U.S. imperialists also used toxic chemicals to massacre inhabitants of hamlets and villages and destroy crops and fruit-trees. They have been spraying toxic chemicals in South Vietnam since the end of 1961. The number of people affected and the acreage of rice and other crops and fruit-trees affected has been increasing year by year.

The following figures, though not complete, suffice to show the most serious nature of these crime. (1)

Year	Number of province sprayed	Number of people affected	Acreage of crops destroyed (in ha)
1961	6	182	560
1962	13	1,130	17,000
1963	16	9,000	320,000
1964	19	11,000	500,230
1965	26 (2)	146,247	700,000

PART III

THE "BURN ALL, DESTROY ALL, KILL ALL" POLICY CARRIED OUT OVER VAST AREAS

WHEREVER the U.S. aggressors go, there is mourning and destruction. They have been carrying out the "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy all the more frenziedly in and around the area under their occupation.

(1) See *They Are Even More Ruthless Than Hitler!*, *Vietnam Courier* No 66, Supplement.

(2) Total of provinces in South Vietnam: 43.

They completely disregard the lives and property of the South Vietnamese people in pursuing their objective of occupation, expansion of their areas, and "pacification" at all costs, and experimentation of their weapons and methods to massacre the people (1).

They have deliberately created death zones, in an attempt to wipe off the map large areas comprising many hamlets or villages.

Following are some areas which have been savagely destroyed:

1 — CU CHI, "FREE-BOMBING" AREA

SAIGON is the main den of the U.S. aggressors in South Vietnam. "To pacify" and "to ensure the security" of this place, they have not only been carrying out atrocious repression against the people but also setting up stretches of no-man's land. They consider the so-called "Saigon gates" such as Cu Chi, Long An etc, "free-bombing areas", and "key areas for pacification".

On "pacification", Jacques Decornoy, a French journalist, reported in the November 5 and 6, 1966 issue of *Le Monde* the statement of a U.S. "special unit" soldier: "We carry out pacification by killing the people first, then we wage a psychological war and a political war".

Cu Chi is a district of Gia Dinh province, over 30 kilometres north west of Saigon, with 18 villages inhabited by 60,000 people. For many years, particularly since the stationing of the Second Brigade of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division at Cu Chi district town (the beginning of 1966) Cu Chi has been the target of savage raids.

Aircraft and warships have been carrying out round-the-clock bombardments. Their objectives were all signs of life or suspected signs of life: figures of human beings or cattle, some fire, smoke, trees stirred by the wind. At present all houses and buildings in the district of Cu Chi including churches, pagodas and temples have been hit.

According to an *A.F.P.* dispatch early in March 1966, from January 18 to February 28, 1966, the people of Cu Chi received about 180,000 shells fired by the first battalion of the U.S. 25th Division, that is 4,500 shells per day and 3 shells per capital.

An Phu, Phu My Hung, An Nhon Tay, An Nhon Dong, Nhuan Duc, Trung Lap, Duc Hiep villages in the northern part of Cu Chi have been churned up by tens of thousands of tons of bombs. In this area, a six-square kilometre locality received in the first two months of 1966, 1,800 tons of bombs from B-52 strategic bombers. Three hamlets of An Phu and An Nhon Tay villages have been completely wiped out.

For 12 consecutive days, from January 8 to 19, 1966, 12,000 troops of the United States, Australia and New Zealand launched large-scale terrorist raids in the northern part of Cu Chi with over 200 aircraft of various types, hundreds of tanks and armoured cars, U.S. and satellite infantry troops used

(1) *Vietnam has become a testing ground for new U.S. weapons. Living beings are used for testing weapons to be used eventually in other places (Le Figaro, April 25, 1965).*

tanks, armoured cars in repeated raids on Nhuan Duc, Duc Hiep, Trung Lap, Tan An Hoi, Phuoc Vinh An, Tan Phu Trung villages, etc. They razed to the ground over 1,000 houses, burnt down 2,000 others, destroying rice stocks and other property. Thousands of hectares of garden and ricefield were completely destroyed by toxic chemicals.

They also threw toxic gas grenades into civilian houses and shelters. An Australian N.C.O., Robert Bouwtell, was killed and 6 Australian servicemen seriously affected in this raid, though they were equipped with gas masks (1).

As a result of this massacre, about 100 civilians were killed and over 200 others wounded, mostly women, old persons and children.

The relatively light losses in lives during these savage large-scale raids, can be explained only by the courage and the effective self-defence of the people in Cu Chi. From January to October 1966 alone, the U.S. aggressors completely razed to the ground 5 villages and 12 hamlets. Complete statistics would reveal much heavier losses caused to the people of Cu Chi.

2 — THE AREA OF THE VAM CO DONG RIVER

LONG AN is a province located south west of Saigon; it is a "key pacification province". The areas along the Vam Co Dong River comprising 10 villages have suffered most heavy losses.

Formerly, the fertile banks of the Vam Co Dong River were lined by tens of thousands of houses surrounded by vast gardens. Behind them were green gardens of cassava and golden rice-fields. But at present, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen have turned this area into a devastated land.

From Duc Hoa town (2), enemy guns pounded the villages. Aircraft flew day and night over Vam Co Dong: in the daytime, reconnaissance planes and at night, helicopters lit up the whole area with search lights. When they saw anything that moved: a buffalo grazing in the field, a boat moving on the river, they at once gave the alert. Then the supposed target was pounded with shells of all calibres and bombed by jet aircraft.

Since the end of 1965, U.S. aircraft have repeatedly been spraying toxic chemicals on two-kilometre wide strips of land running along the two banks of the Vam Co Dong River. Rice and other subsidiary crops and fruit-trees have been destroyed.

The U.S. aggressors have been playing the main role in the massacre and destruction. Of the terrorist raid launched in the Bau Trai area from December 31, 1965 to January 7, 1966, an *AP* dispatch of January 8, 1966 only gave a partial picture when it reported that the fertile and extensive area south of the Vam Co Dong River and west of Saigon, was the main objective of the scorched-earth policy.

"They (U.S. paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade) laid their base camp among the blackened frames of burned houses. Within two miles of the paratroopers camp not a house was left standing. Constant pounding by artillery and planes had reduced

(1) According to a Reuter dispatch of January 12, 1966.

(2) Duc Hoa is 5 kilometres from the left bank of the Vam Co Dong River.

every building to rubble. The paratroopers' mission was to move out farther, round up all the people they could find, evacuate them north of the river to resettlement camps (1), and burn and destroy everything eatable and livable... Every house they encountered, they burned to the ground... Every cooking utensil was smashed, every banana tree severed, every mattress slashed". (AP, Saigon, January 6, 1966).

At present there is not a single house along the two banks of the Vam Co Dong River on a distance of 30 kilometres. It is now a devastated, desolate place. But the people of Vam Co Dong still cling to and defend their native land. In face of enemy attacks, all activities are carried out underground. With their determination and initiative, they maintain and develop their vitality and combativity. As in Cu Chi and many other places, the population of Vam Co Dong are waging an ever fiercer struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

3 — IN THE VICINITY OF U.S. BASES IN CHU LAI AND DA NANG

SINCE the first three months of 1965, the Johnson administration has been pouring into Da Nang, then Chu Lai (Tam Ky district, southern-most part of Quang Nam province and bordering Quang Ngai province), ten thousands of U.S. marines. And since the middle of 1965, in order to turn the Chu Lai area into a military base, U.S. troops have been levelling houses, wiping out whole villages in this area. Thousands of local people have been drafted into forced labour, nearly 100 of them were used to dig communication trenches and tunnels inside the bases. After completing their works, they were *secretly murdered* for the sake of "military secret" and "safety" of the U.S. base.

The "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy has been stepped up more and more feverishly. From December 8 to 11, 1965, 12 U.S. battalions launched a savage "raid" in the western part of Tam Ky district. Some 100 people were killed or wounded, all their livestock and rice were taken away, destroyed or burnt. In a 20 kilometre long area from Ha Lam to Viet An, all houses and orchards were razed to the ground.

On March 24, 1966 in Operation *Texas*, 3 U.S. Marine battalions from Chu Lai completely destroyed Phuong Dinh hamlet (Son Tinh district, Quang Ngai province). *UPI* on March 25, 1966, revealed that U.S. troops lobbed 6,700 shells of 105-, 155- and 203-millimetre guns on Phuong Dinh hamlet, killing all 167 persons of this hamlet.

Describing this barbarous massacre, *AFP* wrote on March 25, 1966:

"On Thursday, March 24, 1966, after U.S. troops used plastic charges to blow up shelters, Phuong Dinh hamlet became a devastated area. Hardly a tree was left without marks of U.S. bombs and

(1) *Resettlement centres here are dubbed "Relief camps for victims of communism" and "strategic hamlets".*

shell splinters. In the crumble of straw-thatched and tile-roofed houses a hen and small chickens were picking for food in the ashes. The feathers on the hen's back have been burnt by napalm. On a ricefield north of the hamlet, corpses were piled up. Tens of corpses were lying in the muddy water. There was no survivor. Not a single woman or child was to be seen alive."

Recently, from November 19 to December 5, 1966, U.S. marines and Pak Jung Hi mercenary troops from Cbu Lai, in a raid on the villages west of Son Tinh district, committed mass murder against civilians in their peaceful occupations, children busy at school or playing in kindergartens. In the hamlets of Vinh Loc, An Thuyet, Dien Nien, Phuoc Loc, An Tho etc they herded the inhabitants into houses and opened fire on them, threw hand grenades to finish the survivors, then burnt down the houses. Many families were wiped out. More savage still, they forced the old folks, women and children into the shelters then threw grenades and sprayed poison gas into them. Many of the victims were instantly killed, with blood trickling from their mouth and their eye-balls blown out of their sockets. The soldiers also raped many pregnant women then trampled on their bellies until the fetus shot out. They raped a pregnant woman then ripped open her belly, pulled out the fetus and cut it into three parts, then they cut off the breasts and limbs of the mother. They also thrust sticks into women's genital organs until the victim died amidst their laughter. They also killed children in their mothers' arms then cut off their heads.

On the following days, December 5 and 6, 1966, U.S. troops and Pak Jung Hi mercenaries launched a raid on villages east of Binh Son district. At day-break they poured into Lac Son, Loc Tu, Long Binh, An Phuoc hamlets (Binh Ky villages), arrested over 400 civilians, mostly aged people, women and children, concentrated them in groups of 20 or 30, forced them into houses, then massacred them with handgrenades. After this extremely barbarous atrocity, they committed another bestial act which is beyond the imagination of civilized mankind. They pulled out a number of women's and children's corpos, opened up their bellies and plucked out the livers and ate them. There has not been any record of such barbarity in history! In An Phuoc hamlet alone, of 550 villagers, 380 were murdered (54 children, 8 pregnant women, and women and old people). At present, not a single woman or child is to be found in this hamlet.

In these two raids against Son Tinh and Binh Son districts, U.S. troops and Pak Jung Hi mercenaries killed nearly 1,000 persons, burnt down thousands of houses, and razed to the ground many villages.

As for Da Nang, to expand it into a big military base and set up a stretch of no-man's land, U.S. troops, right from the outset have been sparing no efforts to massacre the people and destroy the villages in the vicinity.

On August 2, 1965 over 100 U.S. jet planes flying in waves dropped explosive and napalm bombs, south of Hoa Nang district and north of Dien Ban district, which was also attacked with guns from inland positions or from warships. Hardly had the bomb and shell explosions died away than 6,000 U.S. marines with over 60 M113s rushed into Chan Son, Nam Ne, Yen Ne, Tu Thau, An Dinh, La Bong and Phan Nam hamlets. Nearly 4,000 civilian houses in these hamlets were levelled by M113s or burnt down by flame-throwers. Then they herded into the Yen Ne school-yard

hundreds of women including pregnant women, old women of 60, 70 years of age and little girls of 10 to 12 years of age, and took turns to rape them. Some hundred people were killed, 79 of them being old persons, women and children.

An AP correspondent who went with U.S. troops in this raid, wrote that an American G.I. rifle in hand ran and shouted: "Today I'm a murderer. Kill all, don't spare anyone!"

In the last 8 months of 1965, in the Hoa Vang district alone, which comprised 24 villages lying close to Da Nang, 710 persons were killed, 900 others wounded, 6,517 houses burnt down. Out of 109 hamlets in 24 villages, not a single one was left untouched or without victims of U.S. bombs and shells. From Lien Chieu to An Chau a string of 18 hamlets was completely razed to the ground - not a single hut or a bamboo tree was left standing. Hundreds of hectares of tea plants, thousands of hectares of ricefields were destroyed. This area was saturated with U.S. bombs and shells, even in crowded villages, such as Hoa Thuong, Hoa Binh, Hoa Ninh and Hoa Phu, each person received an average of 2.8 bombs and 25 shells.

Hoa Vang was not the only case, in other districts such as Dien Ban, Dai Loc, Duy Xuyen, the U.S. aggressors' crimes were no less numerous and barbarous.

In their raid from June 28 to July 14, 1965 on the villages of Dien Xuan, Dien Van (Dien Ban district), Loc Huong, Loc Phong, Loc An (Dai Loc district), they burnt down completely 33 hamlets with 9,900 houses with flame-throwers and also with matches. For half a month the whole area was clouded with smoke, over 350 civilians were killed or wounded. When the enemy started burning the houses the old folks who could not stand seeing their houses being reduced to ashes, rushed to put out the fire but they were shot dead and their corpses were thrown into the flames.

The fertile area along the Thu Bon river spreading from Giao Thuy to Da Hoa, Thanh Long, comprising rich and populous hamlets famous for their vast fields of maize, mulberry and sugar-cane was razed to the ground. The farmers who return after the enemy's raid found everywhere dark bomb craters, heaps of ash and the ground ploughed up by enemy's armoured cars. Women could not recognize the yards of their own houses in the vast devastated area.

After U.S. aggressive troops had been poured into Da Nang and Quang Nam, within only 18 months (from March 1965 to August 1966) and speaking only of Da Nang and the districts of Hoa Vang, Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen, Dai Loc (Quang Nam province) the statistics being still incomplete, the losses in life and property already amounted to

- 4,650 people killed, including 3,219 women and 851 children.
- 5,276 wounded including 3,418 women and 1,057 children
- 6,201 people detained and savagely tortured, including 4,118 women and 1,017 disabled by tortures.
- 731 women raped (including 161 old women and 96 young girls under 15 years of age) in which 178 were raped to death (mostly old women and little girls).
- 37,020 houses, 42 pagodas, 35 schools, 22 Cao Dai temples and 32 Catholic churches burnt or destroyed.

- 39 villages and 121 hamlets levelled by bombs, shells, armoured cars and toxic chemicals.
- 7,120 heads of cattle and 24,700 pigs killed or taken away.
- 3,579 hectares of ricefields, subsidiary crops, and orchards destroyed.

These figures could only reflect part of the U.S. aggressors barbarous and odious crimes.

The immediate and long-range effects of these crimes on the people in this area are beyond any estimate.

4—THE AREA OF BEN SUC TOWN AND ITS SURROUNDING VILLAGES

BEN SUC lies in Thanh Tuyen village, Ben Cat district, in the northern part of Thu Dau Mot province, 55 kilometres north west of Saigon.

With a view to implementing the "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy, 30,000 U.S. and puppet troops (comprising U.S. infantry units of the 1st, 4th and 25th Divisions, the 196th U.S. Infantry Brigade, the 173rd U.S. Airborn Brigade, one U.S. armoured regiment, and a number of puppet battalions) razed to the ground Ben Suc town with a population of 10,000 and its surrounding villages in Operation *Cedar Falls* launched on January 8, 1967 against the northern part of Thu Dau Mot.

For four consecutive days prior to this raid, B-52 strategic aircraft carried out 11 carpet bombings, and other planes on 400 occasions dropped thousands of tons of bombs on villages surrounding Ben Suc. Thanh An, Long Nguyen, Thanh Tuyen villages (northern part of Ben Cat) and An Tay, Phu An, An Dien villages (southern part of Ben Cat) were churned up. Many houses were destroyed, civilians killed, mostly old folks, women and children. In this operation, U.S. and puppet troops killed civilians and burnt their houses. Bulldozers ploughed up the land, destroyed orchards, fruit-trees and graves. 8,000 persons were forced at the enemy gun-point to leave their native villages by plane or boat, for concentration camps in Phu Coong (Thu Dau Mot town).

On U.S. scheme to wipe off Ben Suc from the map of Vietnam *AP* wrote on January 14 and 16, 1967 that Ben Suc had been systematically erased by U.S. bulldozers. Three-storey houses have been turned into heaps of bricks. Bulldozers have levelled the houses until there was only one pillar, a part of the altar or an earthen pot left emerging from the earth. Flames were seen in many places. Houses were ablaze, children crying, women terrorized, rice-fields and orchards destroyed, long processions of people slowly marching off. It looked like the resettlement of million of peasants under the Ngo Dinh Diem regime and the scorched earth scenes in other wars.

After U.S. and puppet troops razed to the ground Ben Suc and its neighbouring villages on January 18, 1967, they resorted to another savage method: B-52s dropped hundreds of tons of incendiary bombs to burn forests on tens of square kilometres.

It is quite clear that the United States and its agents have made a most serious step in their scheme of "pacification" of the country-side. They feverishly and ruthlessly carried out the "three all" policy in an attempt to herd the people into concentration camps dubbed "refugee camps".

THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS' "BURN ALL, DESTROY ALL, KILL ALL" POLICY IN SOUTH VIETNAM IS ONE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR WAR OF AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM AND AT THE SAME TIME THE MOST SERIOUS AND VIVID MANIFESTATION OF A WAR OF AGGRESSION IN HISTORY

THE U.S. imperialists are the most cruel aggressors in the centuries-old history of Vietnam and of mankind.

They are even more dangerous, barbarous, odious and despicable than Hitlerite fascists.

When Hitler started his war, he made no bones of his fantastic ambition of expanding the border of "Greater Germany" to the Caucasus range, and he conceived all Europe as Germany. As for the U.S. imperialists now, they are doing their utmost to cover up their aggression with quibbles.

They explain the presence of U.S. troops which cross the Pacific to invade Vietnam, a country ten thousand miles away, by asserting that they have to "protect the security of the United States and the free world" or to "keep their commitment" to a "friendly country" i.e. the henchmen they put in power such as Ngo Dinh Diem, Nguyen Cao Ky, etc.

Hitler declared openly that his methods were war, weapons and extermination. But the U.S. imperialists, while unceasingly escalating the war and stepping up the "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy which is mainly directed against the overwhelming majority of the Vietnamese people, keep saying that they only attack military targets, that they are trying to avoid losses in civilian life and property and at the same time incessantly clamour that they are bringing freedom and happiness to the people.

By unleashing a war of aggression against South Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists have committed the crime of aggression, encroached on the national independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Vietnamese people, and sabotaged peace and justice. They have met with resistance from the South Vietnamese people, opposition and condemnation from world opinion. But the obdurate, reactionary, bellicose imperialists, trampling underfoot all norms of international law, continuously intensify and expand the war and carry out the "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy more and more frenziedly and savagely. The U.S. imperialists' most serious crimes are piling up sky-high. Their "burn all, destroy

all, kill all" policy in South Vietnam is one of the most striking characteristics of their war of aggression in Vietnam and at the same time the most serious and vivid manifestation of aggressive wars in history. With this "three all" policy, they try to wipe out not only all military forces and targets but also all civilians who disapprove or oppose their policy of aggression i.e. all patriots and peace-loving people. With this "three all" policy, they attempt to kill all those who are determined to resist them in self-defence, and to safeguard national independence, freedom, democracy, social progress, world peace and human civilization. The U.S. imperialists not only kill a large number of people but also deliberately destroy all means and sources of life such as foodstuff, crops, vegetation, attack villages, fields and orchards, forests and mountains. Many vast areas, the fruits of the labour of generations of South Vietnamese have been wiped out. Many historical relics, age-old cultural vestiges, spots of beauty, the pride of the Vietnamese people, have also been completely destroyed (1). These are irremediable losses caused by the U.S. imperialists to civilized mankind as well as to the Vietnamese people.

The extremely inhuman nature of their "three all" policy is also revealed by the fact that they have carefully studied and have been applying the most barbarous old and new methods used in the East and the West. They have been carrying them out systematically, using the gruesome methods of massacre used by medieval tyrants such as beheading, gouging out eyes, carving off human flesh, burying alive, disembowelling, tearing up children's bodies, then throwing them into the flames, as well as most effective methods of mass murder with various modern weapons, including toxic chemicals.

Due to these bestial acts, at present in a number of places, the people who would have lived in a natural environment have to spend their days in underground tunnels. The U.S. imperialists are seeking to push back civilized mankind to the cave dwellers' age.

It is clear that in their attempt to conquer and impose their domination on the heroic Vietnamese people, the U.S. imperialists have totally disregarded international law which has long since condemned wars of aggression, and completely denied international law and customs which have provided for the protection of civilians in war-time and banned immoral and inhuman means and methods of warfare.

Their most savage and ruthless acts against the Vietnamese people constitute, according to international law, not only war crimes and crimes against mankind but also crimes of genocide.

To hide their aggressive colonialist nature, they painstakingly display the signboard of "independence" of the Saigon puppet administration which they set up as a smokescreen, and at the same time apply a most perfidious policy of "using Vietnamese to kill Vietnamese". Along with the dispatch

(1) In 4 South Vietnamese districts alone—Hoa Vang, Dien Ban, Duy Xuyen, Dat Loc (Quang Nam province)—from March 1965 to August 1966, they destroyed or burnt down 82 Buddhist pagodas, 35 schools, 32 Catholic churches, 22 Cao Dai temples and levelled to the ground 39 villages and 121 hamlets.

of hundreds of thousands of U.S. expeditionary troops to South Vietnam, they also force a number of their satellites to commit tens of thousands of mercenaries — most of these are Asians — to their war of aggression (1).

THE thunder of U.S. bombs and shells, the rain of toxic chemicals and all the criminal acts of the aggressors cannot extinguish the sacred flames of patriotism in the hearts of all Vietnamese and their indomitable tradition of struggle against foreign aggression, but can only fan up their hatred.

The Vietnamese people are determined not to submit to the aggressors. The South Vietnamese together with the people throughout the country have firmly sworn to sacrifice everything rather than live as slaves. This explains why the people of South Vietnam fear no difficulties, hardships and sacrifices and are determined to fulfil their duties toward the fatherland, to struggle for the most sacred rights of the nation, at the same time serving the interest of independence and freedom-loving people throughout the world.

Therefore, the higher the U.S. imperialists obstinately escalate their war of aggression, the stronger and fiercer the opposition of the South Vietnamese people will be, the more U.S. and mercenary troops are brought in and the more barbarously they behave, the deeper they will get bogged down and the heavier will be their defeats. Around their strongly fortified dens such as Chu Lai, Da Nang and even Saigon the stranglehold of the just resistance war of the South Vietnamese people is tightening every day.

But the U.S. imperialists have not yet given up their scheme to conquer Vietnam, and have been peddling about fallacious "peace" and "negotiation" offers to deceive public opinion, at the same time they are feverishly stepping up and expanding the war in both parts of Vietnam, whatever harm their frenzied, bellicose actions may do to the people of the United States and the world.

Independence and freedom are more precious than anything. No matter how brutal the U.S. imperialists may be and whatever they may try to do, the South Vietnamese people are determined to struggle against aggression to defend themselves, save their country and safeguard peace. They are firmly confident that their friends all over the world, including those in the United States, and the whole progressive mankind will not forgive the U.S. imperialists and will not let them continue to commit monstrous crimes.

February, 1967

(1) Up to December 31, 1966 the United States brought 389,000 troops into South Vietnam. Besides, 52,000 troops from Australia, New Zealand, South Korea (South Korean troops number 45,000) were also brought in (UPI, January 5, 1967).